

## **RESOURCES for AGING**

**March 9, 2007 (Vol. 4 No. 2)**

Welcome to Resources for Aging, the electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) of the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) in Lansing**. It provides timely information about aging network news, events and resources.

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For more information about this e-newsletter, see the RESOURCES FOR AGING section at the end of this issue.

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## AGING NETWORK NEWS/RESOURCES

### OSA Director Urges Support for Governor's Budget Plan

"Michigan's budget deficit is no secret. We are in a financial crisis," says OSA Director **Sharon Gire**. "Our state is at a crossroads, and over the next 18 months Michigan faces a \$3.5 billion shortfall. This year alone, it faces a \$900 million deficit."

"We are confronted with making difficult decisions," continues Director Gire. "How policy makers and citizens, including older adults, respond to this financial crisis will define Michigan for generations to come. That's why the Governor's proposed budget plan is the best plan for Michigan. The alternative would result in devastating cuts to services and other things that make us competitive, and provide quality of life for young and old."

Director Gire believes that "underlying our budget crisis is a structural deficit, and this is happening even though Governor Granholm eliminated a \$3 billion deficit over the past four years, the most of any Michigan Governor in history." Painful spending cuts by the Governor have included reduced grants for senior center staffing and senior volunteer programs, as well as spending cuts to other state and local programs."

Tax revenues are inadequate because the Big 3's share of domestic auto sales has plummeted 20% in 14 years, including a 27% drop in the last six years. Another reason is because of tax cuts. In just 10 years, Michigan has lost \$3 billion in tax revenue through tax cuts. A third reason is inflation because, when adjusted for inflation, the State of Michigan General Fund remains at 1970's levels.

Add to that the state's aging population, rising health care costs, reductions in federal government funding to cover services at the state level, and an increasing prison population, and that is why Michigan has 32% less revenue than 30 years ago, but significantly more demand for public services. Consequently, the cost of maintaining essential state services, including the cost of services for frail and vulnerable older adults, is growing faster than state revenues.

"Reduced spending alone will not solve the problem," observes Director Gire. "Even if every department in state government reduced its budget by 10% this year, only \$800 million would be saved, and then, with 10% less funding, 5,000 state workers would be terminated and many essential state services, such as prisons, boot camps, police and fire protection, and colleges and universities, would be reduced or eliminated."

To offset this year's \$900 million shortfall and balance the budget, the Governor has offered an economic plan that includes \$500 million in revenue increases and \$400 million in budget cuts. "The good news," says Director Gire, "is that this is a comprehensive, aggressive plan that includes government reform and an investment in people through education, health care and worker training."

The \$500 million in revenue would come from a revised Michigan Business Tax; a 2% tax on services (that would cost each Michigan citizen about \$16/year); increased tobacco and liquor taxes; a federally decoupling estate tax (applicable to estates worth

more than \$2 million); and the elimination of some tax loopholes.

The \$400 million in spending cuts would include the release of medically-fragile, foreign national and elderly non-violent prisoners; continued administrative cuts in every state department; and cuts to local libraries, MSU Cooperative Extension, day care and cash assistance programs. The Governor also recommends saving costs by waging war on waste, and asking local governments and schools to consolidate and share services.

Director Gire encourages older adults and aging network service providers to find opportunities to discuss the state's budget situation and the Governor's economic plan with their friends, family and professional colleagues. For more information, call 517/373-7876 or e-mail [osadirector@michigan.gov](mailto:osadirector@michigan.gov).

### **MLHS to Sponsor Public Forum Featuring Gov. Granholm**

Because Michigan is facing its most serious financial crisis in decades, and because our state is entering its seventh consecutive year of budget deficits, the Michigan League for Human Services (MLHS) will sponsor a public policy forum 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon **March 30** at the Lansing Center in **Lansing**.

Entitled "Beyond the Budget: Putting Our Fiscal House in Order," the public forum will feature **Governor Jennifer Granholm**; as well as former House Speaker **Paul Hillegonds**, now Senior Vice-President of Corporate Affairs and Communications at DTE (invited); former State Representative **Lynn Jondahl**, now Executive Director of Michigan Prospect; and **Michael Edwards**, representing the State of Virginia Association of Counties.

**Gov. Granholm** has proposed a restructuring of Michigan taxes to increase revenues for public services, and create future economic growth. After she outlines her economic plan for Michigan, a panel discussion will follow that will respond to her plan, and talk about how the State of Virginia successfully addressed a similar fiscal crisis. For more information or to register, go to [www.milhs.org](http://www.milhs.org) or call 517/487-5436. Space is limited.

### **Gatekeeper of the Year Named for 2006**

Every year the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA), in conjunction with Consumers Energy, names an employee of Consumers Energy as "Gatekeeper of the Year." This year, the statewide honor goes to **Christopher Harbert** from **Grand Rapids**. He was honored as "Gatekeeper of the Year" for 2006 at the **February 16** Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) meeting.

Mr. Harbert has demonstrated a commitment that goes beyond his job of serving older adult customers. While working for Consumers Energy as a Customer Service Representative, he received a call from a customer to notify Consumers Energy that a payment was in the mail.

While talking with the customer, he learned of possible neglect and abuse, so he connected the customer with the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Inc. who assisted the customer with getting home delivered meals, transportation to appointments, and home health care.

The Gatekeeper Program was initiated in 1987 by Consumers Energy to identify older

adult customers in need of assistance. Each month, employees of Consumers Energy are nominated for identifying and assisting at-risk elder customers age 60 and older who are in need of assistance. From those nominated, OSA selects one employee each month to be named “Gatekeeper of the Month,” and from those the “Gatekeeper of the Year” is selected.

### **Genesee County Launches “Fruits & Veggies -- More Matters”**

Because fresh fruits and vegetables benefit people of all ages, including older adults, a project called “Fruits and Vegetables – More Matters” is being launched in Flint and Genesee County.

Sponsored by the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the Michigan Farmers’ Market Association, More Matters will promote the consumption of fruits and vegetables by older adults. It also will showcase Michigan’s farmers’ markets.

The kick-off event for More Matters will take place **March 24** at the Flint Farmers’ Market. It will feature demos by local chefs and advice from local dietitians, as well as produce taste-testing, educational materials, recipe ideas, exhibitors, product giveaways, contest prizes, demonstrations, food sampling, balloons and posters.

Invited special guests include Michigan Surgeon General Dr. **Kimberlydawn Wisdom**, Flint Mayor **Donald Williamston**, Former Michigan House Speaker **Bobby Crim**, State Senator **John Gleason** (D-Flushing), State Senator **Deborah Cherry** (D-Burton) and State Representative **Lee Gonzales** (D-Flint).

For more information about “Fruits & Veggies – More Matters,” call **Dick Ramsdell** at 810/938-4246 or e-mail him at [ramsdell@hotmail.com](mailto:ramsdell@hotmail.com).

### **MPRO Requests Nominations for Quality Awards**

MPRO requests nominations for the “2007 Michigan Award for Excellence for Improving Care in the Nursing Home Setting.” The award honors extraordinary Michigan nursing homes for quality improvements in one or more long-term care (LTC) areas including pain, pressure ulcers, restraints and depression.

In addition, MPRO will recognize the top performing nursing homes in the LTC areas related the “2007 Michigan Award for Excellence for Improving Care in the Nursing Home Setting” with a special recognition, the 2007 Michigan Award of Excellence. Award recipients will be recognized at the Michigan Award of Excellence Ceremony.

The deadline for submitting award nominations is **March 16**. For more information, or to nominate a nursing home, go to [www.mpro.org/nursinghome/](http://www.mpro.org/nursinghome/) or call 248/465-7375.

### **Older Adults can Obtain Free Tax Assistance**

Many senior centers and IRS volunteer sites offer free tax help for older adults. To locate a site, they should contact their local senior center, or call 888/227-7669 or 800/829-1040, or go to [www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=164032,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=164032,00.html).

### **PBS to Feature Documentary on the Boomer Century**

PBS will present a two-hour documentary, entitled “The Boomer Century: 1946-2046” at 9:00 p.m. on **March 28**. The program will be hosted by **Ken Dychtwald**, author of Age Wave and a nationally known corporate consultant on aging.

The film will attempt to show viewers what really makes this generation tick, both the good and the bad, and how its unique personality will help determine how this massive generation will continually re-shape society over the coming decades.

Among those interviewed in the film are **Oliver Stone, Rob Reiner, Julian Bond, Alvin Toffler, Andrew Weil, J. Craig Venter** (the human genome entrepreneur), **Eve Ensler** and **Tony Snow**. For more information, call 415/553-3338 or e-mail [ylee@kqed.org](mailto:ylee@kqed.org), or call 212/966-4600 or e-mail [eileen@drcpublicrelations.com](mailto:eileen@drcpublicrelations.com).

### **Readers Respond to OSA E-Newsletter Survey**

In the February 22 issue of Resources for Aging, it was reported that 11.1% of those on the e-newsletter distribution list completed and submitted the OSA e-newsletter survey that was e-mailed to readers last October. Also, 91.2% rated Resources for Aging either “good” or “excellent.”

The following is a snapshot of the survey and the responses. Based on this reader input, OSA will be implementing changes to the e-newsletter.

Overall, how would you rate the e-newsletter?

41.6% “excellent,” 49.6% “good,” 8.8% “fair” and 0.0% “poor.”

Do you forward issues (or parts of issues) to others (either all or part of the time)?

52.3% “yes,” and 47.7% “no.”

Would it help if the e-newsletter archives on the OSA website were organized by topic area instead of by past issue?

72.6% “yes,” and 20.4% “no.”

<u>Please rate each e-newsletter section:</u>	<u>Very Useful</u>	<u>Useful</u>	<u>Little Use</u>	<u>No Use</u>
Aging Network News/Resources	48.7%	43.4%	0.0%	1.8%
OSA Events/Meetings	26.5%	49.6%	1.8%	1.8%
Michigan Conferences	37.2%	46.0%	4.4%	1.8%
Nonprofit Seminars/Events	33.6%	45.1%	4.4%	2.7%
Conferences Outside Michigan	12.4%	29.2%	27.4%	8.0%
For-Profit Training Programs/Resources	19.5%	26.5%	16.8%	8.8%
Job Opportunities	16.8%	29.2%	14.2%	8.0%
Federal Register	21.2%	41.6%	10.6%	6.2%
Legislation Summary	38.1%	38.9%	4.4%	1.8%
Website	33.6%	32.7%	6.2%	6.2%

Please suggest how this e-newsletter could become more user-friendly

Of those who offered comments about this, 50.9% suggested changing the newsletter format for easier reader access. For example, they suggested “clicking on a topic (that) takes you to the article as opposed to scrolling down.” Also, “a list of clickable headlines at the top, so you can go to just (those) stories.”

In addition, 25.5% of those who offered comments identified the length of the e-newsletter as a problem. For example, they said, “the newsletter is too long.” Also, “I can feel overwhelmed with all of the information,” and “it is “too time-consuming to read.”

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## OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS

### OSA/Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Directors

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. **March 13** in Conference Room 3B on the third floor, 7109 West Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Jan Bowlin** at OSA (517/241-3864) or e-mail [bowlinj1@michigan.gov](mailto:bowlinj1@michigan.gov), or call **Mary Ablan** at the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (517/886-1227) or e-mail [ablan@iserv.net](mailto:ablan@iserv.net).

### Statewide Kinship Service Providers Meeting

Sponsored by OSA and the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center, it will be held 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **March 14** at the Hannah Community Center in **East Lansing**. For more information or to register, call **Ama Agyemang** at the Resource Center (toll-free 800/535-1218) or e-mail [kinship@msu.edu](mailto:kinship@msu.edu).

### Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA)

The next meeting will be held 10:00 a.m. **March 16** at the Macomb Intermediate School District, 44001 Garfield in **Clinton Township** in conjunction with a State Plan Hearing that will be held 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the same location. For more information, call **Cindy Albrecht** at OSA (517/335-4016) or e-mail [albrechtc@michigan.gov](mailto:albrechtc@michigan.gov)

### OSA State Plan Public Input Sessions

Public input session will be held to obtain input those interested in the wellbeing of older adults to develop the State Plan on Services for Michigan’s Older Citizens. They will be held 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the following sites:

**March 16** at the Macomb Intermediate School District in **Clinton Township**

**April 20** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center in **Lansing**

**June 15** at the Crystal Lake Senior Center in **Iron Mountain**

**July 20** at Luther Village in **Grand Rapids**

**October 19** at the University Center at Gaylord in **Gaylord**

Those interested in transportation, nutrition, housing, long-term care (LTC), health, independence, scams, employment, volunteer opportunities, and other issues important to older adults, are invited to attend these free public input sessions to express their opinions to policy makers.

Verbal comments made by interested individuals at the public input sessions are welcome. Written comments also may be submitted by **November 1** to OSA (7109 West Saginaw Highway, P.O. Box 30676 in **Lansing**, 48909-8176) or e-mail [osadirector@michigan.gov](mailto:osadirector@michigan.gov). For more information or directions to the sites, go to the

OSA website ([www.miseniors.net](http://www.miseniors.net)) or call OSA (517/373-8230).

### **State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC)**

The next meeting will be held 9:30 a.m. **April 20** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. It will be a joint meeting with the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA). For more information, call **Sally Steiner** at OSA (517/373-8810) or e-mail [steiners@michigan.gov](mailto:steiners@michigan.gov).

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### **EVENTS/MEETINGS ADDED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE**

**Senior Fashion Show**, sponsored by the Dress Barn of Canton **March 12** at the Plymouth Cultural Center in **Plymouth** with modeling by Plymouth Community Council on Aging (PCCOA) members. For more information, call 734/453-1234.

**Public Hearing on Older Adult Issues**, sponsored by OSA and the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) **March 16** at the Macomb Intermediate School District (ISD) in **Clinton Township** to obtain public input from older adults, caregivers and others to develop the State Plan on Services for Michigan's Older Citizens. For more information or directions to this site, go to [www.miseniors.net](http://www.miseniors.net) or call 517/373-8230. See also the OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS section of this issue (above).

**Dementia/Alzheimer's Education Workshop**, sponsored and funded by the Bay/Arenac Behavior Health Senior Services and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) **March 20** at the Gratiot Commission on Aging in **Ithaca**. For more information or to register, call 989/875-5246.

**Partnering with Your Doctor: a Workshop for People with Memory Problems and Their Care Partners**, sponsored by UPCAP and the Alzheimer's Association **March 22** at the Escanaba Civic Center in **Escanaba**. For more information or to RSVP, call 906/789-2886.

**Kick-Off for Fruits & Veggies -- More Matters**, sponsored by the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the Michigan Farmers' Market Association **March 24** at the Flint Farmers' Market to promote fruits and vegetables for older adults. For more information, call 810/938-4246 or e-mail [ramsdell@hotmail.com](mailto:ramsdell@hotmail.com). See also the OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS section of this issue (above).

**Spring 2007 Joint Provider/Surveyor Training**, sponsored by the Bureau of Health Systems of the Michigan Department of Community Services (MDCH) **March 27** at the Rock Financial Showplace in **Novi** to discuss Norovirus activity, the trust fund survey process, enforcement, standards of practice for respiratory care, the green house project, and design and construction for nursing homes. For more information, go to [www.mpro.org/jpst](http://www.mpro.org/jpst) or call 248/465-7303.

**AARP 55 Alive Driver Safety**, sponsored by AARP and the North Berrien Senior Center **March 27-28** at the senior center in **Coloma** to learn about normal age-related physical changes and how to adjust driver skills to allow for those changes. For more information or to register, call 269/468-3366.



**Public Policy Forum featuring Governor Jennifer Granholm**, entitled “Beyond the Budget: Putting Our Fiscal House in Order” and sponsored by the Michigan League for Human Services **March 30** at the Lansing Center in **Lansing**. For more information, go to [www.milhs.org](http://www.milhs.org) or call 517/487-5436. Also see the AGING NETWORK NEWS section (above).

**Senior Spelling Bee: Don't be Fooled by the ABC's**, sponsored by the Friends of Bellaire Library **April 1** at the Bellaire Council on Aging in **Bellaire**. For more information, call 231/533-8703.

**Health & Wellness: A Cholesterol Informational Presentation**, sponsored by the Madison Heights Senior Citizen Activity Center and presented by Wayne State University Nursing Students **April 5** at the center in **Madison Heights** to learn more about cholesterol and its management. For more information, call 248/545-3464.

**3-Part Alzheimer's Education Series**, a three-part workshop on understanding and coping with Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter West Michigan Region and funded by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan **April 17, April 24** and **May 1** at the Byron Township Public Library in **Byron Center**. For more information, go to [www.alzqmc.org](http://www.alzqmc.org) or call toll-free 800/272-3900.

**Public Hearing on Older Adult Issues**, sponsored by OSA and the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) **April 20** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center in **Lansing** to obtain public input from older adults, caregivers and others to develop the State Plan on Services for Michigan's Older Citizens. For more information or directions to this site, go to [www.miseniors.net](http://www.miseniors.net) or call 517/373-8230. See also the OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS section of this issue (above).

**3-Part Alzheimer's Education Series**, a three-part workshop on understanding and coping with Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter West Michigan Region and funded by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan **June 6, June 13** and **June 20** at the Mecosta County Medical Center in **Big Rapids**. For more information, go to [www.alzqmc.org](http://www.alzqmc.org) or call toll-free 800/272-3900.

**Public Hearing on Older Adult Issues**, sponsored by OSA and the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) **June 15** at the Crystal Lake Senior Center in **Iron Mountain** to obtain public input from older adults, caregivers and others to develop the State Plan on Services for Michigan's Older Citizens. For more information or directions to this site, go to [www.miseniors.net](http://www.miseniors.net) or call 517/373-8230. See also the OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS section of this issue (above).

**Public Hearing on Older Adult Issues**, sponsored by OSA and the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) **July 20** at Luther Village in **Grand Rapids** to obtain public input from older adults, caregivers and others to develop the State Plan on Services for Michigan's Older Citizens. For more information or directions to this site, go to [www.miseniors.net](http://www.miseniors.net) or call 517/373-8230. See also the OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS section of this issue (above).

**Public Hearing on Older Adult Issues**, sponsored by OSA and the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) **October 19** at the University Center at Gaylord in **Gaylord**



to obtain public input from older adults, caregivers and others to develop the State Plan on Services for Michigan's Older Citizens. For more information or directions to this site, go to [www.miseniors.net](http://www.miseniors.net) or call 517/373-8230. See also the OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS section of this issue (above).

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## MICHIGAN CONFERENCES

**Eighth Annual Art of Aging Successfully Conference**, entitled "Vitality and Inspiration" and sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) Elder Advisors to Research **March 29, 2007** at the Greater Grace Temple in **Detroit**. For more information call 313/577-2297.

**Fourth Annual Michigan Mental Health & Aging Conference** (formerly the OBRA Conference), sponsored by the Lansing Community College (LCC) Mental Health & Aging Project **May 8-9** at the Michigan State University (MSU) Kellogg Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call 517/483-1529 or e-mail [beham@lcc.edu](mailto:beham@lcc.edu).

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Issues in Aging Conference**, part of the Colloquium Series sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **May 14-15** at the Management Education Center in **Troy**. For more information, call 313/577-1180 or e-mail [j.mendez@wayne.edu](mailto:j.mendez@wayne.edu).

**Michigan Nonprofit SuperConference 2007: Surviving and Thriving through Seasons of Change**, sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) **May 15-16** at the Lansing Center in **Lansing**. For more information, go to [www.mnaonline.org](http://www.mnaonline.org) or call 517/492-2400.

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**, sponsored by the Area Agencies on Aging Association on Aging (AAAAM) **May 30-31** at the Michigan State University (MSU) Kellogg Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call 517/886-1029.

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## MICHIGAN NONPROFIT SEMINARS/EVENTS

**Understanding Alzheimer's**, an introductory program sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Great Lakes Chapter to recognize possible signs of Alzheimer's Disease; better understand how Alzheimer's is diagnosed; recognize the effects of Alzheimer's on the brain; and gain access to community resources. The programs will be held:

**March 12** at the Cass County Council on Aging (CoA) in **Cassopolis**

**March 20** at the Tri-County Office on Aging in **Lansing**

**March 27** at the Shelby Public Library in **Shelby**

For more information, go to [www.alzbigreatlakes.org](http://www.alzbigreatlakes.org) or call 800/272-3900.

**Legal & Financial Issues: Tips for Making Financial and Medical Decisions on Behalf of a Person with Dementia**, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter **March 13** at the Ionia County Commission on Aging (CoA) in **Ionia**. For more information or to make a reservation, call 616/459-4558 or toll-free 800/272-3900.

**What Everyone Needs to Know about Diabetes**, sponsored by the Cass County Council on Aging (CoA) and the Southern Michigan Diabetes Outreach Network **March 15** at the CoA in **Cassopolis**. For more information, go to [www.casscoa.org](http://www.casscoa.org) or call toll-free 800/323-0390.

**Making Sense of Memory Loss**, a three-part workshop sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Great Lakes Chapter **March 15, 22 and 29** at Muskegon Family Care in **Muskegon** to learn how to prepare for and cope with changes that are likely to occur with progressive memory loss. For more information, go to [www.alzmgreatlakes.org](http://www.alzmgreatlakes.org) or call 734/677-3081.

**Strategies for Navigating the Dementia Journey**, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter **March 20** at the Ionia County Commission on Aging (CoA) in **Ionia**. For more information or to make a reservation, call 616/459-4558 or toll-free 800/272-3900.

**Dealing with the Stresses of Caregiving**, a special program for caregivers and those who provide support to caregivers, funded by the Mt. Pleasant Community Foundation, and sponsored by the Isabella County Commission on Aging (CoA) **March 22** at the First Presbyterian Church in **Mt. Pleasant**. For more information or to make a reservation, call 989/772-0748.

**Working with Someone with Dementia: Assessing Caregiver Interactions**, a seminar sponsored by the Health & Human Services Careers Department and Mental Health & Aging Project at Lansing Community College **March 23** at the college in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/483-1529 or e-mail [beham@lcc.edu](mailto:beham@lcc.edu).

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## CONFERENCES/EVENTS OUTSIDE MICHIGAN

**n4a 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Aging Policy Briefing & Capitol Hill Day**, sponsored by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) **March 26-28** at the Phoenix Park Hotel in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to [www.n4a.org](http://www.n4a.org) or call 202/872-0888.

**GCM 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference**, entitled "Boston 2007: GCMs Go the Distance" and sponsored by the National Association of Geriatric Care Managers (GCM) **April 11-15** at the Intercontinental Hotel in **Boston, MA**. For more information, go to [www.caremanager.org](http://www.caremanager.org) or call 520/881-8009.

**AGS 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting**, sponsored by the American Geriatrics Society **May 2-6** at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel in **Seattle, WA**. For more information, go to [www.americangeriatrics.org](http://www.americangeriatrics.org) or call toll-free 800/247-4779.

**Conference on Ministry with the Aging** entitled "Stages: Age is Just a Number!" planned by representatives from a variety of religious denominations and sponsored by the Baptist Homes of Indiana and **May 15-16** at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in **Columbus, IN**. For more information, call 317/635-3552.

**Conference on Ministry with the Aging** entitled "Aging Well: The Way it Was, the Way it Is, and the Way it Could be!" planned by representatives from a variety of religious denominations and sponsored by the Baptist Homes of Indiana and **May 17-18**

at Don Hall's Guesthouse in **Fort Wayne, IN**. For more information, call 317/635-3552.

**AAA 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**, sponsored by the American Aging Association (AAA) **June 1-4** at the Marriott Plaza in **San Antonio, TX**. For more information, go to [www.americanaging.org](http://www.americanaging.org) or call 610/627-2626.

**NANASP Annual Training Conference**, sponsored by the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Programs (NANASP) **June 27-29** at the Grand Sierra Resort & Casino (formerly the Reno Hilton) in **Reno, NV**. For more information, go to [www.nanasp.org](http://www.nanasp.org) or call 202/682-6899.

**GU 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference**, entitled "Intergenerational: It's Monumental" and sponsored by Generations United (GU) **July 24-27** at the Holiday Inn on the Hill in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org) or call 202/289-3979.

**n4a 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference**, sponsored by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging **July 29-August 1** at the Hyatt Regency in **San Francisco, CA**. For more information, go to [www.n4a.org](http://www.n4a.org) or call 202/872-0888.

**2007 Minority Women's Health Summit**, entitled "Women of Color: Addressing Disparities, Affirming Resilience, and Developing Strategies for Success" and sponsored by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office on Women's Health" **August 23-26** at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capital Hill in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to [www.womenshealth.gov](http://www.womenshealth.gov).

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## **NONPROFIT TRAINING PROGRAMS**

**Conducted by Skillpath Seminars,  
a Nonprofit Division of Graceland University**

For more information about these seminars, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com).  
To register and receive fee discounts, call Kathy Hepker 800/873-7545  
(ext. 1137) and say you heard about it in the OSA e-newsletter.

**Excelling as a First-Time Manager or Supervisor**, conducted **March 12** in **Troy**, **March 13** in **Ann Arbor**, **May 2** in **Grand Rapids**, **June 11** in **Traverse City**, **June 12** in **Grand Rapids**, **June 13** in **Kalamazoo**, **June 14** in **Jackson** and **June 15** in **Flint**.

**Fundamentals of Successful Project Management**, conducted **March 13-14** in **Dearborn**, **March 15-16** in **Troy**, **April 10-11** in **Ann Arbor**, **April 12-13** in **Farmington Hills**.

**Coaching and Teambuilding Skills for Managers and Supervisors**, conducted **March 14** in **Grand Rapids**, **March 15** in **Farmington Hills**, **April 16** in **Troy**, **April 17** in **Flint** and **April 18** in **Lansing**.

**Discovering the Secrets of Microsoft Access**, conducted **March 15-16** in **Grand Rapids**, **April 2-3** in **Farmington Hills**, **April 4-5** in **Jackson**, **May 3-4** in **Troy** and **May 31-June 1** in **Traverse City**.

**The Conference for Adobe Photoshop Users**, conducted **March 19** in **Traverse City**,

**March 20 in Grand Rapids and March 21 in Troy.**

**The Conference on OSHA Compliance 2007**, conducted **March 20 in Troy and March 21 in Grand Rapids.**

**Conflict Management Skills for Women**, conducted **March 21 in Saginaw, April 19 in Kalamazoo and April 20 in Lansing and May 18 in Traverse City.**

**How to Become a Better Communicator**, conducted **March 23 in Kalamazoo, May 31 in Grand Rapids and June 1 in Saginaw.**

**Getting the Most from Microsoft Excel**, conducted **March 23 in Sault Ste. Marie, May 14 in Grand Rapids, May 15 in Jackson, May 16 in Kalamazoo and June 15 in Saginaw.**

**How to Build Powerful PowerPoint Presentations**, conducted **March 26 in Saginaw, March 27 in Lansing, March 28 in Kalamazoo and April 23 in Grand Rapids.**

**Managing Multiple Projects, Objectives and Deadlines**, conducted **March 26 in Sault Ste. Marie, March 27 in Traverse City, March 28 in Lansing, March 29 in Saginaw, April 2 in Grand Rapids, April 3 in Dearborn, April 4 in Farmington Hills, May 1 in Troy, May 2 in Ann Arbor, May 3 in Kalamazoo and May 4 in Grand Rapids.**

**The Administrative Assistants Conference**, conducted **March 27 in Kalamazoo, March 28 in Jackson, March 29 in Lansing, March 30 in Flint, May 9 in Grand Rapids, June 11 in Troy and June 12 in Dearborn.**

**Fundamentals of Finance and Accounting for Non-Financial Managers**, conducted **March 27-28 in Farmington Hills and April 18-19 in Troy.**

**The Managers and Supervisors Conference**, conducted **March 28 in Traverse City and March 29 in Farmington Hills.**

**How to Effectively Manage Multiple Locations**, conducted **March 28-29 in Troy.**

**Business Writing and Grammar Skills Made Easy and Fun**, conducted **April 2-3 in Troy, May 8-9 in Traverse City and May 10-11 in Grand Rapids.**

**The Essentials of Communicating with Diplomacy and Professionalism**, conducted **April 4-5 in Troy, May 21-22 in Lansing and June 21-22 in Kalamazoo.**

**The Indispensable Assistant**, conducted **April 16 in Farmington Hills, April 17 in Dearborn, May 7 in Troy and May 8 in Ann Arbor.**

**Managing Emotions and Thriving Under Pressure**, conducted **April 16 in Grand Rapids, May 31 in Jackson, June 25 in Farmington Hills and June 26 in Dearborn.**

**How to Write Effective Policies and Procedures**, conducted **April 19 in Grand Rapids.**

**Advanced Microsoft Excel Techniques**, conducted **April 23-24 in Flint and April 25-**

**26 in Lansing.**

**Dealing Effectively with Unacceptable Employee Behavior**, conducted **April 24** in **Saginaw**, **April 25** in **Traverse City**, **April 26** in **Sault Ste. Marie**, **May 1** in **Lansing**, **May 2** in **Flint**, **May 3** in **Farmington Hills** and **June 4** in **Troy**.

**The Conference for Women**, conducted **April 30** in **Flint**, **May 1** in **Dearborn**, **May 2** in **Troy**, **June 7** in **Saginaw** and **June 8** in **Grand Rapids**.

**How to Excel at Managing and Supervising People**, conducted **May 7-8** in **Dearborn**, **May 9-10** in **Farmington Hills**, **June 5-6** in **Ann Arbor** and **June 7-8** in **Troy**.

**How to Design Attention-Grabbing Brochures, Catalogs, Ads, Newsletters and Reports**, conducted **May 14** in **Farmington Hills** and **June 18** in **Troy**.

**The Conference on Leadership Development and Team Building**, conducted **May 17** in **Saginaw**.

**Business Writing Basics for Professionals**, conducted by **May 21** in **Farmington Hills**, **May 22** in **Detroit** and **May 23** in **Lansing**.

**The Conference on Customer Service**, conducted **May 22** in **Farmington Hills**.

**Understanding (Hardware and Software) Networking Fundamentals**, conducted **May 24-25** in **Grand Rapids**.

**Two-Day Workshop for Personnel/HR Assistants**, conducted **May 29-30** in **Farmington Hills** and **June 26-27** in **Troy**.

**Conducted by National Seminars Training**  
**a nonprofit division of the Rockhurst University Continuing Education Center**  
For more information about this seminar,  
go to [www.nationalseminarstraining.com](http://www.nationalseminarstraining.com) or call toll-free 800/258-7246.

**Workplace Safety & OSHA Compliance 2007**, conducted **March 19** in **Traverse City**, **March 20** in **Grand Rapids**, **March 21** in **Lansing**, **March 22** in **Flint** and **March 23** in **Southfield**.

**Microsoft Excel – Tips, Techniques & Shortcuts**, conducted **April 30** in **Farmington Hills**, **May 2** in **Flint**, **May 4** in **Lansing**, **May 14** in **Traverse City**, **May 15** in **Grand Rapids**, **May 17** in **Dearborn**, **May 22** in **Kalamazoo** and **May 29** in **Marquette**.

**Management Skills for First-Time Supervisors**, conducted **May 10** in **Southfield**, **May 29** in **Grand Rapids**, **May 31** in **Lansing**, **June 1** in **Flint** and **June 11** in **Kalamazoo**.

**Leadership Development Conference for Women**, conducted **May 16** in **Lansing**.

**Basics of Writing Policies & Procedures**, conducted **May 24** in **Lansing**.

## **FOR-PROFIT TRAINING PRGRAMS/RESOURCES**

The following information about for-profit training events and resources is presented as a public service for informational purposes only, and should not be interpreted as constituting OSA promotion or endorsement. OSA does not receive financial or any other benefit for providing this information.

### **Conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars**

For more information about any of these seminars, go to [www.pryor.com](http://www.pryor.com) or call toll-free 800/556-2998.

**Mistake Free Grammar & Proofreading**, conducted **March 12** in **Kalamazoo**, **March 13** in **Grand Rapids**, **March 14** in **Lansing**, **March 15** in **Ann Arbor** and **March 22** in **Jackson**.

**Grammar & Proofreading**, conducted by **March 12** in **Kalamazoo**, **March 13** in **Grand Rapids**, **March 14** in **Lansing**, **March 15** in **Ann Arbor**, **March 16** in **Troy** and **March 22** in **Jackson**.

**Dealing with Difficult People**, conducted **March 13** in **Ann Arbor**, **March 14** in **Dearborn**, **March 15** in **Troy**, **March 12** in **Grand Rapids**, **March 27** in **Petoskey**, **March 28** in **Traverse City**, **March 29** in **Saginaw**, **March 30** in **Flint** and **June 14** in **Marquette**.

**Microsoft Office**, conducted **March 16** in **Flint**, **March 21** in **Grand Rapids**, **March 22** in **Ann Arbor** and **March 23** in **Troy**.

**Creative Leadership Workshop for Managers, Supervisors and Team Leaders**, conducted **April 2** in **Kalamazoo**, **April 3** in **Grand Rapids**, **April 4** in **Lansing**, **April 5** in **Ann Arbor**, **April 6** in **Troy**, **April 9** in **Petoskey**, **April 10** in **Traverse City**, **April 11** in **Saginaw**, **April 12** in **Flint** and **April 27** in **Jackson**.

**Management Skills for Secretaries, Administrative Assistants and Support Staff**, conducted **April 3** in **Ann Arbor**, **April 4** in **Flint**, **April 5** in **Troy**, **April 12** in **Lansing** and **April 13** in **Grand Rapids**.

**Management & Leadership Skills for New Managers and Supervisors**, conducted **April 9-10** in **Flint**, **April 11-12** in **Troy**, **April 18-19** in **Ann Arbor**, **April 18-19** in **Kalamazoo**, **April 23-24** in **Lansing** and **April 25-26** in **Grand Rapids**.

**Microsoft Excel: Excel Basics**, conducted **April 18** in **Marquette**, **May 1** in **Lansing**, **May 3** in **Ann Arbor**, **May 3** in **Jackson**, **May 7** in **Saginaw**, **May 8** in **Troy**, **May 9** in **Flint**, **May 10** in **Southfield**, **May 14** in **Kalamazoo**, **May 16** in **Grand Rapids**, **May 21** in **Petoskey** and **May 23** in **Traverse City**.

**Excel: Beyond the Basics**, conducted **April 19** in **Marquette**, **May 2** in **Lansing**, **May 4** in **Ann Arbor**, **May 4** in **Jackson**, **May 8** in **Saginaw**, **May 9** in **Troy**, **May 10** in **Flint**, **May 11** in **Southfield**, **May 15** in **Kalamazoo**, **May 17** in **Grand Rapids**, **May 22** in **Petoskey** and **May 24** in **Traverse City**.

**Training the Trainer**, conducted **April 19** in **Grand Rapids** and **April 20** in **Troy**.



**OSHA Compliance**, conducted **April 25** in **Troy**, **April 26** in **Ann Arbor** and **April 27** in **Grand Rapids**.

**Business Writing & Grammar Workshop**, conducted **April 30-May 1** in **Grand Rapids**, **May 2-3** in **Troy** and **May 23-24** in **Ann Arbor**.

**How to Communicate with Tact and Professionalism**, conducted **May 1-2** in **Petoskey**, **May 3-4** in **Traverse City**, **May 7-8** in **Kalamazoo**, **May 9-10** in **Grand Rapids**, **May 15-16** in **Lansing**, **May 16-17** in **Ann Arbor**, **May 17-18** in **Troy**, **May 21-22** in **Saginaw** and **May 23-24** in **Flint**.

**How to Deal with Unacceptable Employee Behavior**, conducted **May 10** in **Marquette**.

**How to Supervise People**, conducted **May 11** in **Ann Arbor**, **May 21** in **Grand Rapids**, **May 22** in **Flint** and **May 23** in **Troy**.

**Powerful Microsoft PowerPoint Presentations**, conducted **May 15** in **Ann Arbor** and **May 16** in **Troy**.

**The Ultimate Supervisor**, conducted **May 23** in **Marquette**.

**The Outstanding Receptionist**, conducted **June 6** in **Kalamazoo**, **June 7** in **Lansing**, **June 8** in **Grand Rapids**, **June 26** in **Ann Arbor**, **June 27** in **Flint** and **June 28** in **Troy**.

**Finance and Accounting for Non-Financial People**, conducted **June 12** in **Kalamazoo**, **June 13** in **Grand Rapids**, **June 20** in **Ann Arbor**, **June 21** in **Flint** and **June 22** in **Troy**.

**Team-Building, Mentoring and Coaching Skills for Managers and Supervisors**, conducted **June 12** in **Jackson**, **June 12** in **Petoskey**, **June 13** in **Ann Arbor**, **June 13** in **Traverse City**, **June 14** in **Troy**, **June 14** in **Saginaw**, **June 15** in **Southfield**, **June 15** in **Flint**, **June 27** in **Kalamazoo**, **June 28** in **Lansing** and **June 29** in **Lansing**.

**The Ultimate Course in Payroll Management**, conducted **June 28** in **Ann Arbor** and **June 29** in **Troy**.

**Conducted by CareerTrack Seminars**

For more information about these seminars,  
go to [www.careertrack.com](http://www.careertrack.com) or call toll-free 800/556-3009.

**Dealing with Difficult People**, conducted **March 12** in **Grand Rapids**, **March 13** in **Ann Arbor**, **March 14** in **Dearborn**, **March 15** in **Troy**, **March 27** in **Petoskey**, **March 28** in **Traverse City**, **March 29** in **Saginaw** and **March 30** in **Flint**.

**Creative Leadership Workshop**, conducted **April 3** in **Grand Rapids**, **April 5** in **Ann Arbor**, **April 12** in **Flint** and **April 27** in **Jackson**.

**Management & Leadership Skills**, conducted **April 9-10** in **Flint**, **April 18-19** in **Ann Arbor** and **April 25-26** in **Grand Rapids**.

**How to Communicate with Tact and Professionalism**, conducted **May 1-2** in **Petoskey**, **May 3-4** in **Traverse City**, **May 7-8** in **Kalamazoo**, **May 9-10** in **Grand Rapids**, **May 15-16** in **Lansing**, **May 16-17** in **Ann Arbor**, **May 17-18** in **Troy**, **May 21-22** in **Saginaw** and **May 23-24** in **Grand Rapids**.

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**FEDERAL REGISTER**  
**(January 29 – March 2)**

**VA Geriatrics Committee to Hold Public Meeting**

See the Federal Register dated **January 29** (Vol. 72, No. 18). Go to “Veterans Affairs Department” and see “Notices, Meetings.” This notice from the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces that its Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee will conduct a public meeting **April 25-26** at its central office in Washington, DC. The purpose of this committee is to provide advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Undersecretary of Health on all matters pertaining to geriatrics and gerontology by assessing the capability of VA health care facilities to meet the medical, psychological and social needs of older veterans, and by evaluating VA facilities designated as Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers. For more information, call 202/273-8540.

**AoA Requests Public Comment for Alzheimer’s Data Report**

See the Federal Register dated **February 14** (Vol. 72, No. 30). Go to “Aging Administration” and see “Notices.” This notice from the Administration on Aging (AoA) concerns Alzheimer’s Disease Demonstration Grants to States (ADDGS) that are authorized through the Public Health Service (PHS) Act. The ADDGS program, funded through the AoA, helps states extend family support services provided by subgrantees to underserved populations, including those in rural communities. The PHS Act requires AoA to provide for an evaluation of each demonstration project that receives a grant. The PHS Act also requires the AoA to submit a report to the Congress describing the findings from these evaluations. So, the AoA has developed a new ADDGS Data Program Report that will require state ADDGS state grantees to submit this data information annually to the AoA. The AoA requests public comment by **March 16** regarding this new ADDGS Data Program Report and accompanying definitions. For more information, call 202/357-3452.

**DOL Offers Job Training Grants for LTC**

See the Federal Register dated **February 16** (Vol. 72, No. 32). Go to “Employment and Training Administration” and see “Notices.” This notice from the Employment and Training Administration of the US Department of Labor (DOL) announces the availability of approximately \$2.5 million in grant funds for regional approaches to meeting the workforce challenges of the long-term care (LTC) sector of the health care industry. Already, a growing gap is emerging between the supply of long-term care workers and the mounting needs of older adults and people with disabilities for LTC services. This translates into a rapidly increasing demand for well-trained direct care givers. Therefore, the grants must take place in the context of a regional strategic partnership between the workforce investment system, LTC employers, and education and training

providers, as well as other public and private sector partners. Grant applicants may be public, for-profit, and private nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and community organizations. Grant applications must be submitted by **April 5**. For more information, call 202/693-3322.

### **CMS to Allow Additional Time for Physicians to Enroll in CAP**

See the Federal Register dated **February 23** (Vol. 72, No. 36). Go to “Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services” and see “Notices, Medicare.” This notice from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announces an additional physician election period for physicians who are not currently participating in the competitive acquisition program (CAP) for Medicare Part B drugs for the calendar year (CY) 2007. The additional election period will start on **May 1** and end on **June 15**. The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act (MMA) requires the implementation of a CAP for certain Medicare Part B drugs not paid on a cost or prospective payment system basis. Physicians who elect to participate in the CAP obtain Medicare covered drugs from vendors selected through a competitive bidding process. Physicians who do not elect to participate in the CAP will purchase these drugs, and are paid under the average sales price (ASP) system. For more information, call 410/786-6545.

### **Legal Services Corporation Issues 2007 Eligibility Guidelines**

See the Federal Register dated **February 23** (Vol. 72, No. 36). Go to “Legal Services Corporation” and see “Rules.” This document updates and establishes specified income levels for individuals eligible for legal assistance, effective **February 23**. The updated income levels reflect the annual amendments to the Federal Poverty Guidelines, as issued by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Legal Services Corporation Act requires the Corporation to establish maximum income levels for individuals eligible for legal assistance, and the Act also provides that other specified factors shall be taken into account along with income. The updated income levels are equivalent to 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. For a household of one, the maximum income level is \$12,763; for a household of two, \$17,113; for three, \$21,463; for four, \$25,813; for five, \$30,163; for six, \$34,513; for seven, \$38,863; for eight, \$43,213; and for each additional person more than eight, it is \$4,350/person. For more information, call 202/295-1624.

### **DOS Issues Final Rule for Deaths and Estates Abroad**

See the Federal Register dated **February 28** (Vol. 72, No. 39). This final rule from the US Department of State (DOS), effective **March 30**, updates and amends its regulations. Specifically, it makes some changes to the James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act regarding the deaths and personal estates of US Citizens and non-citizen nationals abroad. Under this act, a consular officer must assist the Secretary of State in notifying the next of kin or legal guardian as soon as possible when a US Citizen or non-citizen national dies abroad, with certain exceptions. It also explicitly authorizes a consular officer to issue a report of death, or of presumptive death, in the case of finding a death by the appropriate local authorities. In addition, it updates the authority of a consular officer to serve as a provisional conservator of the portion of the personal estate of a deceased US citizen or national that is located abroad. For more information, call 202/736-9111.

## **CMS Proposes Appeal Process for Medicare Providers and Suppliers**

See the Federal Register dated **March 2** (Vol. 72, No. 41). This proposed rule from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) would establish an appeal process for providers and suppliers whose applications for enrollment or renewal of enrollment were denied. It would also grant providers and suppliers the right to a hearing by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) within the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) after an adverse decision at the reconsideration level when a provider or supplier's Medicare enrollment application is denied to those situations in which the provider or supplier's Medicare billing privileges are revoked. In addition, this proposed rule would grant providers and suppliers the right to Departmental Appeals Board review of an adverse ALJ decision. Public comment regarding this proposed rule must be received by **May 1**. For more information, call 410/786-0612.

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### **LEGISLATION SUMMARY**

The following are bills and public acts from the 2007-2008 legislative session that have been identified as being of probable interest and importance to older adults and aging network service providers.

These bills are listed for informational/educational purposes only. They are not listed if they have only been introduced and assigned to a committee. To be listed, they must have moved further in some way as part of the legislative process. Also, these bills do not constitute OSA support or endorsement. Nor do they indicate the critical bills OSA considers to be of priority.

For more information about the content and legislative history of a particular bill, go to [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov) (the Michigan Legislature website) and enter the bill number in the box under "Legislative Bill Search." Then click on "Go!" and the status page of the bill will appear with current information about the bill. Click on a "PDF" or "TXT" box for a copy of the latest version of the bill, or a House or Senate analysis of the bill.

The Michigan Legislature website ([www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org)) is a free service of the Legislative Internet Technology Team in cooperation with the Michigan Legislative Council, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Senate. Also, call the Michigan Law Library at 517/373-0630 for legal research questions.

If you have a question or opinion about any of these bills, contact your state legislator. Also, you may call OSA Director **Sharon Gire** at 517/373-7876 or e-mail [osadirector@michigan.gov](mailto:osadirector@michigan.gov).

### **2007 House Bills that Moved (January 1, 2007 – March 1, 2007)**

#### **House Bill (HB) 4044 of 2007**

This bill would amend the current immunity against product liability lawsuits that specifically applies to drugs approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It would amend Section 2946 of the Revised Judicature Act that says a drug approved for safety and efficacy by the FDA is not defective or unreasonably dangerous, and the manufacturer or seller is not liable in a product liability action, if the

drug and its labeling were in compliance with the FDA's approval at the time the drug left the control of the manufacturer. Amends Public Act (PA) 236 of 1961. Sponsored by **Rep. Mike Simpson** (D-Jackson) and co-sponsored by 47 others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 1-22-07. Passed by the House 2-22-07. Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary 2-27-07.

#### **House Bill (HB) 4045 of 2007**

This bill would amend the current immunity against product liability lawsuits that specifically applies to drugs approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It would amend Section 2946 of the Revised Judicature Act to establish a three-year period during which a cause of action could be filed based on drug product liability that had been barred by Section 2946 of the Revised Judicature Act. Amends Public Act (PA) 236 of 1961. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary McDowell** (D-Rudyard) and co-sponsored by 25 others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 1-22-07. Passed by the House 2-22-07. Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary 2-27-07.

#### **House Bill (HB) 4046 of 2007**

This bill would amend the current immunity against product liability lawsuits that specifically applies to drugs approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It would amend the Michigan Consumer Protection Act that contains a list of actions that constitute unfair, unconscionable or deceptive methods, acts or practices in the conduct of trade or commerce, and that are unlawful. It would add to that list "failing to accurately represent the risks involved in the intended use of a prescription or over-the-counter drug or medication, or an herbal product, dietary supplement or botanical extract." The bill also would define "goods" to include a legal pharmaceutical product. Sponsored by **Rep. Mary Valentine** (D-Muskegon) and co-sponsored by 28 others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 1-22-07. Passed by the House 2-22-07. Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary 2-27-07.

### **2007 Senate Bills that moved (January 1, 2007 – March 1, 2007)**

#### **Senate Bill (SB) 1 of 2007**

This bill would amend the Social Welfare Act to require the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to create incentives, including expanded benefits and incentives related to premiums, co-pays or benefits for individual medical assistance recipients who practiced specified positive health behaviors, including participation in health risk assessments and health screenings, compliance with medical treatment, attendance at scheduled medical appointments, participation in smoking cessation treatment, exercise, prenatal visits, immunizations, and attendance at recommended educational health programs; to create pay-for-performance incentives for contracted Medicaid HMOs; to establish a preferred product or service formulary program for durable medical equipment; to provide financial support for health information technology initiatives using Medicaid funds; and to include in any federal waiver request that was submitted language to allow the MDCH to establish, at a minimum, the incentive programs required under the bill. Amends Public Act (PA) 280 of 1939. Sponsored by **Sen. Thomas George** (R-Portage) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 1-10-07. Senate substitute bill concurred in as amended 2-21-07. Passed by the Senate 2-22-07. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 2-22-07.

#### **Senate Bill (SB) 176 of 2007**

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to reflect the actual amount of hospital quality assurance assessment program (QAAP) revenue retained by the state in fiscal year (FY) 2005-2006. The amount is increased by \$4.0 million, from \$42.4 million to \$46.4 million. Adjustments of the retained amount are anticipated for 2006-2007, and are proposed in the FY 2007-2008 Executive Recommendation for the budget. During 2002, QAAPs were instituted for nursing home and hospital services as a way to increase net funding for providers while producing General Fund (GF/GP) savings for the state. A QAAP is a tax upon an entire provider group, and the revenue accrues to the state and supplants GF/GP dollars, thus producing GF/GP savings. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Deborah Cherry** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 2-6-07. Senate substitute bill concurred in 2-14-07. Passed by the Senate 2-15-07. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 2-15-07. Referred to second reading 3-1-07

**2007 Public Acts  
(January 1, 2007 – February 17, 2007)**

None

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**ABOUT RESOURCES FOR AGING**

**Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor  
Sharon L. Gire, OSA Director  
Jerutha Kennedy, CSA Chairperson**

This electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) from the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** is available at no cost. If you wish to receive it by e-mail, send a request by e-mail to researcher/writer **David Dekker** at [dekkerd@michigan.gov](mailto:dekkerd@michigan.gov). Please include name, e-mail address, telephone number, city, and organization/agency (if any).

OSA is the designated State Unit on Aging for Michigan, as authorized by the Older Americans Act of 1965 and the Older Michiganians Act of 1981. OSA advocates on behalf of individuals age 60 or older for policies, programs and services that benefit them and their families. OSA administers federal and state funds and manages grants for services provided by the aging network service providers.

Mail correspondence to **OSA**, 7109 W. Saginaw, P.O. Box 30676, **Lansing**, 48909-8176, or phone 517/373-4082, fax 517/373-4092, TDD 517/373-4096, or go to [www.miseniors.net](http://www.miseniors.net).

Complimentary issues are sent directly by e-mail to those on an e-newsletter distribution list. Printed copies also are mailed upon request to those who do not have Internet/e-mail access. Past issues can be accessed at [www.miseniors.net](http://www.miseniors.net).

The events/meetings, funding/grants, products/services and all other resources described in Resources for Aging should not be interpreted as constituting recommendation/endorsement by OSA or any of its staff members. The information is presented for informational/educational purposes only.

Comments and suggestions are appreciated. Also, readers are invited to submit



information to be considered for publication. Please send to [dekkerd@michigan.gov](mailto:dekkerd@michigan.gov) or to Resources for Aging, P.O. Box 30676, Lansing, MI 48909-8176.

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